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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT The Lauchhammer Project

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1. The Lauchhammer project, now under construction in the DDR, is scheduled to relieve the shortage in the DDR of blast furnace and foundry coke by producing hard coke from lignite. The coke which will be produced is to be in addition to coke produced from coal by the chemical and other industries; thus corresponding amounts of coal coke will be released for use in blast furnaces and foundries. Trial production of lignite coke in a test plant at Belitzsch has shown good results.
2. The Polish Government is extremely interested in the Lauchhammer project. At the end of April 1952 two representatives of the Government visited Germany on the occasion of a synthetic products fair in Leipzig; they were Engineer Alexander Spilewicz of the Polish Ministry for Metallurgy and (fnu) Ackermann who was alleged to be Polish Minister for Chemistry. The two Poles expressed a desire to Heinrich Rau, head of the DDR State Planning Commission, to see the Lauchhammer works. Subsequently, they were allowed to visit the project.

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1. Comment. Boleslaw Ruminski is Minister of the Chemical Industry in Poland; Ackermann, however, was recently appointed Deputy Minister of the Chemical Industry.

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